We read of Sir Charles Dilke's signal failure in the House of Commons, with his motion about the Royal expenses, the morng. after he offered it. A more complete discomfiture can't be imagined. — Here we are in the midst of a vehement effort, on the part of certain Republ to prevent Gen. Grant's re-nomination as President, or t secure his defeat in the election if nominated. I think it will be a failure. To hear the "Nation", & certain men, ta you would suppose it to be chiefly "an office-holders' movement I mean his re-nomination. But it is very far otherwise. Great confidence in Grant's integrity & honorable purposes felt by many men, who neither hold nor expect nor desire off & some of his distinguishing measures, as his policy with the Ind tribes, are very noble & creditable to his administration. He certainly not a great man, & certainly has made some ser mistakes. But he has also done many excellent things, & clearly above all bribes & monied influences. It was he, more than anybody else, who broke down the infamous Gold Conspiracy in New York. The "Nation", while keeping his delinquencies & mistakes very prominent, has been very unwilling to give him any credit, or to present the other side fairly, as I must think. Geo. Wm. Curtis's articles are, I believe, more sensible & moderate, tho' I do think he does face all the charges against the President as completely as he should. Grant's opponents seem now very confide they are sure to defeat him. I don't believe it; but w shall see.

Now this must go to the Office. We send a best love to Deborah. Remember me with much regard Alfred. Believe me, Very truly & always Yours Sam'l Ma

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has been similar to that, but at no time quite so extreme. We are also experiencing a great dearth of water. There has been no snow to cover & protect the earth, and it is suffered our grasslands, as well as trees generally, will have suffered severely. Our powerful furnace has done its good service, but at such a rate of coal-consumption as is quite staggering to think of. — I have been much engaged this winter in the collection of the materials for S. J. May's Memoir, and finishing my part of it about 1st Feb. I am sorry to have to tell you that we shall not get it out this Spring as hoped for. September is the time we now anticipate. — My wife is now in Boston, having been gone from home nearly a fortnight. We went together to Plymouth on an occasion which promised to be a very happy one to the parties immediately concerned, & especially to the family we went to visit; — but which turned out otherwise, and now we cannot tell when the sunlight is to shine on them again. My wife remain^d a week with them, to render what comfort she might, but now has return^d to Boston to spend some days. Our little family meanwhile keep along as life is wont, & keep very busy, somehow & in some way. The last time I came from Boston — 6 days since — I brought a heavy cold, with cough, which — continuing & growing — has kept me shut in the house for 4 or 5 days, & scarce able to sit up, some of the time. I often feel that there's not "much of me" left. So we look forward to the milder weather with an unusual longing, & as we have passed the "vernal equinox" we hope something vernal will exhibit itself soon. Ade. says she wrote to you last week, & so will have told you of our last letters from Edward, who, with his young wife, have at length estab^d themselves in a snug little cottage in Honolulu, where they find the weather delightful & other things very much to their minds. They have a small shed-like building for a horse, — a structure for hens — a piece of grass for horse — quite a nice extent of flower-beds — & room enough for them in the house, & a little to spare for a friend.

My brother John arrivd. at N.York day before yesterday on his return from over 3 months' absence on business in California. The route across the Continent had been so blockaded, — for weeks entirely closed, — by snow, that he chose to return by Steamers & the Isthmus. The result, a far more comfortable time I presume, through a mild & genial temperature, with an opportunity to see the island of Jamaica (the Ship having touchd. at Kingston) — but a great delay, & loss of time, in arriving. A friend who left S. F. a week before him, by came across Country, has been here nearly 3 weeks. I have no direct word yet, but I suppose my bro. reachd. home last night.

In a recent letter you said that, owing to my not putting stamps on the letter (having enclosed the portage in Brit. Stamps), the office charged double-portage. This shd. be inquired into; for I can consider it no other than an illegal charge. From the beginning of the present postal arrangt. between the 2 countries, pre-payment of portage has been optional; and I have never had to pay here more than the estabd. Single rates on letters wh. came unpaid fr. England. And I have very often, when I had a considerable supply of Br. stamps on hand, paid my letters by enclosing stamps, ~~that way,~~ & have never heard of the charge being doubled. If there is such a regulation now, I have not heard of it. —

The "Graphics" come very regularly & give us much pleasure. So do the "Spectators" arrive regularly, but I have been wholly unable to give them much time this winter. I lent them, for quite a time, to Edwd. the Davis, Phila., as you desired me to do. When I heard that Richd. had got back to S. F., I sent them to him, as I did before. Now he advises — as he is about leaving — that they be sent to J. W. Enlist at Salem Ohio, who I have done with the last Nos. You will of course let me know, if you desire any change made. — I have been trying for some time to get you a photograph of Maj. Gen. Thomas, — a brave, honest, & unselfish man — as you wanted it. I have been surprised at not finding any likeness in any of the Store keeping these photo. pictures ~~photographs~~ — altho' I have seen some very large assortments. I still have it on my Memoranda, & shall procure it if I can.

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